

00862.022617.



IFW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
HIROSHI TOJO, et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2655
Application No.: 10/693,877)
:)
Filed: October 28, 2003)
:)
For: INFORMATION STORING)
: APPARATUS AND METHOD)
: THEREFOR)
: August 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents (8) to (11) is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,529,522
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,009,233
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,684,919
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,583,654
- (5) U.S. Publication No. 2004-0107223
- (6) U.S. Publication No. 2003-0016942
- (7) U.S. Publication No. 2001-0000970
- (8) Europe 0 951 173
- (9) Japan 7-303239
- (10) Japan 6-318373

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application:

	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group Art Unit</u>	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
(11)	09/239,016	01/29/1999	2624	03500.013284	Ito, Masamichi

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the application specification, claims and drawings for the foregoing U.S. Application is enclosed.

Documents (2), (3), (7) and (8) were cited in an International Search Report issued in parent International Application No. PCT/JP 02/05229. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed.


Documents (9) and (10) are discussed in the specification at page 1. These documents might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed documents (9) and (10) has been located and is enclosed. In addition, document (4) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to document (10).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carole A. Quinn", is written over a horizontal line.

Carole A. Quinn
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 39,000

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022617.		APPLICATION NO. 10/693,877			
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		APPLICANT HIROSHI TOJO, et al.					
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE October 28, 2003		GROUP 2655			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,529,522	3/4/03	Ito, et al.	370	466	
		6,009,233	12/28/99	Tsujimura, et al.	386	95	
		5,684,919	11/4/97	Kikuzawa, et al.	386	95	
		5,583,654	12/10/96	Oguro	386	96	
		2004-0107223	6/3/04	Uno, et al.	707	200	
		2003-0016942	1/23/03	Tojo, et al.	386	46	
		2001-0000970	1/10/01	Ejima	348	232	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		0 951 173	10/20/99	Europe			
		7-303239	11/14/95	Japan			Abstract
		6-318373	11/15/94	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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